THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE U.K.™

Volume 1 Number 2 / Autumn 1993 – £3.75

PATRICK STEWART

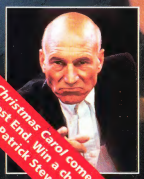
A revealing conversation about his past and how it led him into the future

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

She loves to talk about *Star Trek*

MILES INTO DEEP SPACE

Colm Meaney beams over from *Star Trek: The Next Generation* to *Deep Space Nine*



A Christmas Carol comes to the West End. Win a chance to meet Patrick Stewart.

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INTRODUCTION

Fan Club members, what do you think?

Welcome to the second edition of *The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K. magazine.* Please keep your letters and comments (sub-space frequencies accepted if you don't reverse the charges!) coming, as this is the most effective feedback for future improvements to the magazine.

Again, we want to emphasize that the fan club and magazine are here for you, so please help us transform them to your specifications. The letters we have received with your excellent story suggestions are already being acted on.

But enough of our postal needs. We gather there are a lot of you out there who want to send a letter to your favorite *Star Trek* star, but have no idea where to send it. We've also had a number of queries about where to send requests for autographs, photographs, etc.

The good news is that Paramount Pictures does forward fan mail, though only to the cast members and guest actors of the currently filming *Star Trek* series. Just beam your letter addressed to: actor's name (character's name), c/o *Star Trek: The Next Generation* or *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,* Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA, USA, 90038-3197. (Including both the actor's name and the character she/he played on the show really helps the staff out.)

Paramount does not, however, pass on letters addressed to the actors from the original series and movies. Lincoln Enterprises, the company owned by Majel Barrett Roddenberry, will forward mail to original series actors. Lincoln's address is P.O. Box 691370, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 90069.

And for all those special requests — Paramount cannot send you photos or autographs or props or costumes or blueprints and technical specs or old shooting scripts or copies of the in-house writer's bible, no matter how nicely you ask them. They don't have those materials to give away.

But if Paramount and Lincoln Enterprises do not have the answers and you want to give us a call, we will endeavor to assist as much as possible.

So remember to keep hailing frequencies open to guarantee continuing satisfaction.

Fan Club Out.

Cover art by Keith Birdsong. Adapted from the cover of Pocket Books original novel Dark Mirror *by Diane Duane.*

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE U.K. ™

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THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE U.K. magazine is copyright ©1993 Paramount Pictures and published four times a year by Absolute Field Marketing, The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon OX8 1EB.

Tel: 0865 883350
Fax: 0865 881123

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Single issue price £3.75

LETTERS

Starfleet Communications

Dear Trek:
I have just purchased the *Star Trek* fan club magazine in the U.K., sent off my application and am now early awaiting my membership pack. Having just turned 21, I'm a fairly young *Star Trek* fan, and for the past few years have been on the trail of data about the main stars of the original series and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series with extremely limited success. I don't suppose you fellow Trekkers can help me in my search? Needless to say, my character data is somewhat lacking in places. Many thanks and hopes.

Janet Vinsen, Milton Keynes

Turn to page 11, Janet, for the first of many profiles on the stars of *The Next Generation*, kicking off with Patrick Stewart's unlikely path to the bridge of the U.S.S. Enterprise.

Dear Trek:
Why did Chief O'Brien sport the rank of full lieutenant in seasons two to five but display the rank of a junior ensign in the early-season six episodes of *The Next Generation*? Was he demoted for some unknown reason?

Martin Molloy, Oldham

This issue appears yet to be resolved. It could have been a continuity slipup or there may be some logical reasoning behind it. We'll have to see if all is revealed in a future episode.

Dear Trek:
First may I say hi to all my fellow Trekkers and say hi to you and Paramount Pictures for becoming *The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K.* A couple of decades ago, a grave error was made when the original *Star Trek* series was axed from our television screen. It is for this reason I am deeply saddened to learn that *The Next Generation* is to have the same fate. The great Gene Roddenberry would be bursting with pride if he could see how well the excellent and innovative *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* is continuing his dream. However, I cannot but think that he would be deeply disappointed to find that the Enterprise is to be put into dry dock again. Please could you let us know whether there are any plans for *The Next Generation* cast (i.e., movies)? Finally, if it will make any difference, may I plead with Paramount on behalf of all *TNG* fans, asking them not to say "Computer: End program." Keep up the good work!

Tim Eyre Out, Membership #248

The latest word from executive producer Rick Berman is that *The Next Generation* cast is contracted for one more season. After that, who knows? Berman has hinted that even if the show has run its course, the next two *Star Trek* movies are likely to feature most of your favorite *TNG* characters.

Dear Trek:
I am pleased to become a member of *The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K.*, but my main interest is in the original *Star Trek* series and the six films. I'd like to know if the magazine is going to include more about the original series.

Tim Robinson, Reading

We've tried to create a magazine that caters to fans of all the series. Though we have been concentrating on the new

show in our first issue, we haven't forgotten the series that started it all. Look out for more classic *Star Trek* coverage in future issues.

Dear Trek:

I have just received my first fan club magazine, which I have read from cover to cover and enjoyed every page. I noticed you asked for our input — well, how about producing a fan club binder of some sort to keep our fan club magazines, membership cards, etc. in? I'm fed up with all my magazines getting damaged or lost — a binder would keep them safe and build into a collection to be proud of. I would be interested in your opinion.

Mark Woode, Surrey

Thank you for enthusiastic comments — we don't have any immediate plans to produce a special binder, but it's early days yet. We'd welcome comments from other readers on this subject.

Dear Trek:

I probably speak for many people who are interested in *Star Trek* when I ask "What does Paramount Pictures really have planned for the series?"

There have been several conflicting stories in the papers and magazines about what is currently being planned by Paramount. A few weeks ago it was reported that a feature film version of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was going to start filming in the autumn of 1993 and that a seventh season was to go into production after that. Now we hear that the Enterprise is to be scrapped and replaced by another Starship called Excalibur captained by a woman. I think we would all be grateful to hear "straight from the horse's mouth" what is going to happen.

M. D. Jones, Rainham

Yours must be the most asked question on the subject of *Star Trek* at the moment! The newspaper articles in question contain no confirmed reports on the future of the Enterprise or that of its captain. Paramount's TV and licensing group in the U.K. have dismissed everything so far as pure speculation and rumor. We'll keep you updated.

Dear Trek:

Hailing frequencies open! Fandom certainly is at an all-time high, and at long last the U.K. has its own *Official Star Trek Fan Club*. Initially I was somewhat skeptical about joining as I didn't want to receive a duplicate of the U.S. club's magazine, but my worries were unfounded. You have produced in issue one a totally different and unique magazine that I find both visually and mentally exciting, and I hope that each future issue maintains this high standard. One area, however, that I feel could be addressed by "our club" is information on unfilmed scripts, title changes and plenty of preproduction drawings. To me these things are just as interesting as the episodes themselves. Candid behind-the-scenes photos are also a must. Anyway, thanks again for a wonderful start to the U.K. club. Hailing frequencies closed.

Mark Walton, Chester

Dear Trek:

Although I like to watch *Star Trek* on Sky, I will always buy the videos for my collection (now well over 100). I have even bought the animated series, as well as both the pan and scan and (much preferred) widescreen versions of the films. Sometimes though, it's hard to keep track of what is coming out on video and when. Can you shed any light on this?

R. Martin, Surrey

CIC Video is planning several more episodes of both *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* this year. They plan to release up to *The Next Generation* tape 74 (*Frame of Mind*/*Suspicions*) and *Deep Space Nine* vol. 8 (*Progress*/*If Wishes Were Horses*) by the end of November. There will also be a few surprises thrown in for good measure. These include a limited collector's edition of *Deep Space Nine: Emissary* along with a *Behind the Scenes of Deep Space Nine* special and also a special 16-page booklet on *Deep Space Nine* produced for this edition only. A widescreen box set of *Star Trek* films I to VI is also due. Hope this is enough light to see you through to the end of 1993.

Send letters to the editor to: Starfleet Communications, The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K., The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon OX8 1EB. Though space limitations prohibit running every letter we receive, all letters are read and appreciated. We reserve the right to edit those we do run for clarity or space. Please type or print clearly, including your name and address.

FACTOIDS

The latest word from the many worlds of *Star Trek*

STARDATA

We have recently received a number of letters posing that age-old Trekker question, "Do all those Stardates on the show actually mean anything, and if so, what?"

Yes folks, they do mean something. And to explain to you exactly what, we turn to the supreme source, the late Gene Roddenberry, and his response to the question, which appeared a while back in the pages of *Star Trek: The Official Fan Club Magazine of the U.S.*

The first two digits in a Stardate represent the year and the next two the month, with the day following after the decimal point.

Thus the Terran calendar date of July 23, 1993 would translate to Stardate 9307.23.

Of course, the century may vary: The original *Star Trek* is set in the 23rd century and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* take place in the 24th.

A KISS IS JUST A KISS

In a recent interview, actor Michael Dorn was asked to describe how Klingons kiss. In fact, he revealed, it actually proved something of a problem the first time it came up (ST:TNG: *The Emissary*).

It was something they discussed for days, he confessed, agonizing over what it should be like, whether it should be tentative or aggressive or sweet or sexy . . . Finally, he said, they just went for it, praying that their Klingon false teeth wouldn't hook together.

GAFFE SQUAD REPORT 1

Much as we love *Star Trek*, we know they're not infallible. Indeed, trying to spot the occasional technical or continuity error is something of a Trekker tradition.

And we'd like to carry that tradition over onto these pages. Starting with *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*'s troublesome turbolift.

Call it a design flaw (and blame the Cardassians). We know the *Deep Space Nine* turbolift is supposed to connect Ops and the Promenade. Problem is, the two sets were built on different soundstages. And therein lies the problem. No one realized until well into production that the two versions of the same turbolift actually open in opposite directions.

Unless the lift is capable of executing a 180-degree turn between levels, this constitutes a serious logistical problem. Unless they carve another door in the back wall.

The same sharp-eyed source has a few more *Deep Space Nine* bloopers for us. Like the fact that, after the first two episodes, Cmdr. Sisko's cat mysteriously morphed from an Abyssinian into an orange tabby.

Our L.A.-based informant also insists that the "wanted" poster that hangs on Odo's wall is written in Vulcan and depicts a Vulcan criminal.

TREK TRIVIA

TICKER TAPE WINNERS

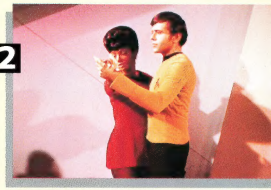
Congratulations! The following lucky 50 *Star Trek* fans who responded to a questionnaire which appeared in a recent CIC Video release of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* have won a fabulous T-shirt.

The winners are as follows:

Sue Appleby, Sidcup, Kent
Eddie Rhodes, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Adam Harvey, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear
Raymond Stone, Edinburgh, Scotland
John Matthews, Oxford, Oxon
Paul Thompson, Crewe, Cheshire
P. Badham, Camberley, Surrey
Lee Dimmick, Burton On Trent, Staffs
Mathew Dowie, Penrith, Cumbria
Alan Warrington, Cambridge, Cambs
Paul Gouldson, Nr. Sandy, Beds
R. Radley, Lymington, Hants
Amanda Fagin, Blackpool, Lancs
Martin Williams, Newark, Notts
Joanna Moses, Guildford, London
A. Crawley, Headley Down, Hants
W. A. Hyde, Southampton, Hants
G. Duckers, Wrexham, Clwyd
G. L. Davies, Hemel Hempstead, Herts
Karl Leonard, Warrington, Lancs
Sue Evans, Bradford, West Yorkshire
S. Cowell, Newport, Gwent
D. J. Harris, Staines, Middlesex
Patricia Duffiw, Oakham, Leics
Dean Wainwright, Chelmsford, Essex
John O'Brien, Redcar, Cleveland
Jon Morris, Bristol, Avon
Caroline McBride, Great Dunmow, Essex
Robert Smith, Wimborne, Dorset
Stephen Feeney, Huyton, Merseyside
David Handy, Newport, Isle of Wight
R. Shore, Horley, Surrey
M. L. Knowles, Waltham Cross, Herts
Adam Pearlman, Hull, North Humberside
Paul Norquay, Hornchurch, Essex
John Hatherley, Portsmouth, Hants
D. M. Yates, Nuneaton, Warks
Steven Thomas, Preston, Lancs
Ian Lowe, Wigan, Lancs
David Grayland, Cwnbran, Gwent
I. G. Thomas, Hastings, East Sussex
Michelle Knights, Thetford, Norfolk
Mark Sharp, Newport, Shropshire
Sarah Allen, Roehampton, London
Phillip Moelsburg, York, Yorkshire
Glyn Jackson, London
David Butler, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Andrew Wright, Feltham, Middlesex
Adam Gold, London
Michael Leonard, Kilburn, London

COMEDY CAPTION CONTEST

Sets Phasers on Laughter



Rather than the usual *Star Trek* trivia quiz, we thought we'd try something a little different, something that would challenge your creativity and appeal to your sense of humor.

Digging through the vast Paramount photo archives, we've unearthed these three unusual production stills from episodes of the original *Star Trek* series.

Taken out of context, they are all, to say the least, open to interpretation. And that's where you — and your sense of humor — come in.

We're asking you to come up with a comedy caption for any or all of our three funny photos (please specify by number). It could be a line (or lines) of dialogue, a thought ballon, a narrative, descriptive or expository statement, a punny episode title or a one-line plot synopsis . . . anything goes. As long as it's funny, and has nothing whatsoever to do with the original context of the scene depicted.

A panel of judges will select the three funniest captions for each of the three photos. Winning submissions will be printed in our next issue, and each of our clever captioneers will win a *Star Trek* video of their choice.

Entries must be received by December 1, 1993, and should be addressed to: *Comedy Caption Contest, The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K., The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon OX8 1EB.*

INTERVIEW

MAKING WHOOPI

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

IS HAPPY TO TALK TREK

By Rob Salem

In a luxurious L.A. hotel suite, a few dozen international journalists sit patiently, even a bit nervously, anxiously awaiting the imminent arrival of Whoopi Goldberg and Ted Danson.

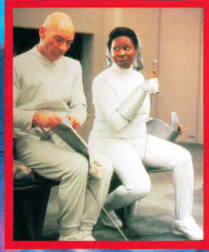
They are coming here, ostensibly, to discuss their new movie, *Made in America*. But that's not why the journalists are here. Not really.

The journalists are hoping that Goldberg and Danson are finally ready to go public. For months there have been rumors that these first-time co-stars have become something more — that while they were filming this offbeat romantic comedy they were also starting up a real-life romance, and that this unlikely relationship is still very much a going concern.

Are they or aren't they? Enquiring minds want to know.

But Whoopi and Ted aren't talking. Particularly Whoopi.

Danson handles most of the questions. Except for those dealing with their much talked about personal lives. Anytime anyone ventures into this restricted area, Danson holds up a handwritten sign that says "Private." At which point Goldberg displays her own sign, which reads "Next question."



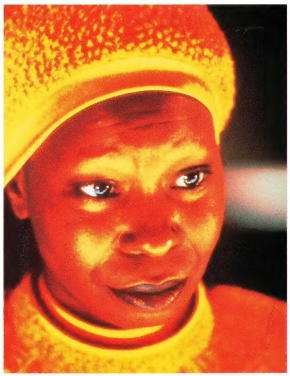
They really don't have to say anything. You can tell just by looking at them. And listening — they're actually quite adorable together, finishing each other's sentences, snickering over in-jokes, ribbing each other about their respective careers.

Whoopi kids Ted about being the highest paid actor on television. Ted makes fun of Whoopi's status as the *second*-highest paid movie actress.

Whoopi insists she never watches sitcoms, *any* sitcom, including the late, lamented *Cheers*. Ted says he's never seen *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, even though both shows were shot on the same Paramount lot.

The journalists are rapidly running out of questions.

"I really like the idea of being in space," Goldberg says. "But I know that I'm never really going to go there. I'm never going up in anybody's rocketship. From anywhere. I know this, because I don't even like to fly."



Fortunately, *Star Trek* is a subject Whoopi will discuss. Happily. She actually looks a bit relieved when the subject is finally broached.

A heavily-accented voice — his country of origin is not clear — asks Goldberg if she took the role of Guinan as "an homage" to Lieut. Uhura, the much-loved *Star Trek* character portrayed by Nichelle Nichols.

Goldberg rolls her eyes. "I did it as a tribute to my love of the show," she says finally.

In fact, she confesses, she took *The Next Generation* job for much more practical reasons.

"Frankly," she says, "I couldn't get any other work [at the time]."

So why *Star Trek*? Though she may not watch much television, she is nonetheless a longtime *Trek* fan.

"I've always liked the show," she says. "I always thought that this would be a great way to sort of expand on the universe.

"Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future always included a multi-ethnic group of people. I thought that was pretty amazing. Pretty amazing."

And joining the crew of *The Next Generation* was a way for her to become a part of that future. The only way.

"I really like the idea of being in space," she says. "But I know that I'm never really going to go there. I'm never going up in anybody's rocketship. From anywhere. I know this, because I don't even like to fly."

It was Goldberg who approached Paramount about *The Next Generation*, not the other way around.

"I asked them if I could be on the show, but it took them a while before they believed I was actually serious."

The recurring role of Guinan, Ten-Forward's ancient, enigmatic alien hostess, was created expressly for Goldberg.

"Finally they said to me, 'Okay, sure. We'll build you a bar.' And then they built me this bar. And I get to go on and be, like, really sage, and I get to wear these great hats. And I get to hang with all these really extraordinary people, like LeVar Burton and Jonathan Frakes. And, of course, Patrick Stewart."

Which brings us to the other burning question of the day. It, too, is a "relationship" question, though it makes the whole Goldberg/Danson thing seem quite inconsequential by comparison ... at least, to a *TNG* fan.

And that is the question of Guinan and Picard.

The exact nature of their unique relationship remains somewhat vague. Guinan herself has described it as "more than friendship, more than family." But we've never been told why.

There have only been vague hints as to the exact circumstances of Picard and Guinan's first encounter (not counting the time trip to 1893 in the two-part ST:TNG: *Time's Arrow*).

We know that Guinan was in "serious trouble," and that she got out of it only by trusting Picard. We know that she spent some time with him on the Stargazer, and that she came aboard the Enterprise at his behest at the beginning of the second season.

But that's about all we know. Or are likely to find out until *The Next Generation* writers are good and ready to tell us.

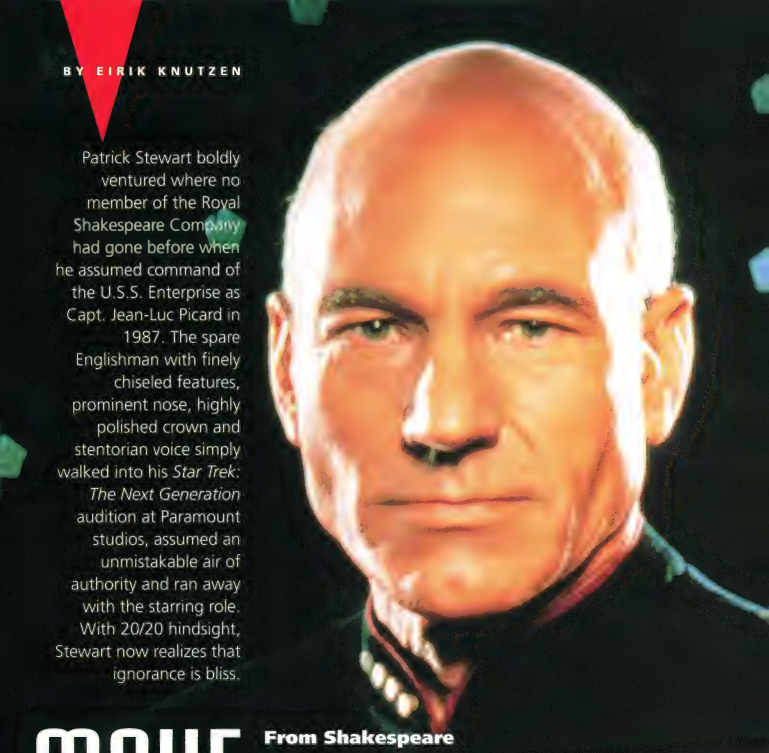
And it better be soon. At this point the current cast is only committed to one more season, and the extent of their participation in future *Star Trek* movies remains a closely guarded secret.

So how about it, Whoopi? Are we ever going to find out how Picard and Guinan first got together?

A Cheshire cat grin. And a very Guinan-like response. "You may." She smiles enigmatically. ■

BY EIRIK KNUTZEN

Patrick Stewart boldly ventured where no member of the Royal Shakespeare Company had gone before when he assumed command of the U.S.S. Enterprise as Capt. Jean-Luc Picard in 1987. The spare Englishman with finely chiseled features, prominent nose, highly polished crown and stentorian voice simply walked into his *Star Trek: The Next Generation* audition at Paramount studios, assumed an unmistakable air of authority and ran away with the starring role. With 20/20 hindsight, Stewart now realizes that ignorance is bliss.



MAKE IT SO

From Shakespeare to Starfleet: Patrick Stewart's unexpected journey to the 24th century

"I consider myself fortunate not to have known more about the *Star Trek* phenomenon or that I was considered for the Picard role, otherwise I might have been intimidated," says the 53-year-old actor, shaking his head. "I just assumed that I would be a token Brit on the intergalactic crew relegated to beaming people up and down from God knows where. And at the time, I certainly wasn't aware of the significance that *Star Trek* had played in the culture of the second half of the 20th century in America.

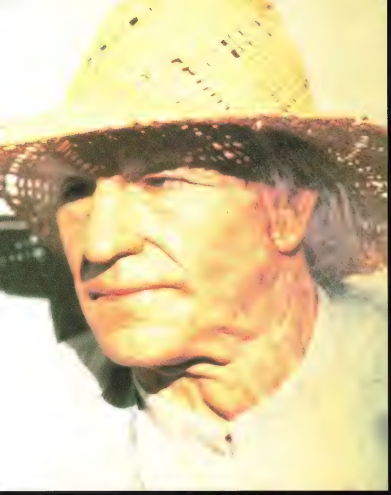
"I was utterly unaware of the millions of people around the world whose lives had been touched by the original show and by the great affection and fondness it was held with," Stewart continues, almost in awe. "I didn't know that day-to-day philosophies had been built around the fundamental outlook of *Star Trek*. I didn't know the significance of sitting in the captain's chair. My unfamiliarity with the whole project was turned to my advantage in that I was able to bring my own experiences and responses to the first series of *The Next Generation* scripts to lay the foundation for the Jean-Luc Picard character."

Stewart wasn't totally ignorant of *Star Trek* during its initial run, of course, but his semidetached involvement came from being a concerned parent rather than a bona fide fan of the program. While he was working for the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) at Stratford upon Avon during the early 1970s, *Star Trek* aired on Saturday afternoons — just as he came home from the Globe Theatre for tea between the matinee and evening performance of *King Lear* or *Macbeth*. Stowing his sword in the entryway and hitching up his tights, the weary actor would feign interest as he watched snippets of various episodes in the company of his then two young children.

"Going back some twenty years, my memory is rather hazy — but I do recall quite intense actors snapping at each other very briskly," he says, smiling. "I don't think I saw an episode all the way through, but my children — who adored the show — would act out every scene for me in the morning. Ironically, the very first time they came to visit me on the *The Next Generation* set we were doing one of those famous moments on the Enterprise where we're under attack and the crew is thrown about in their seats. The premier thing they ever saw me do was what they had illustrated for me so many times before."

An intelligent, articulate man with a deep, crisp and clear voice of a person twice his size, Stewart has long since made himself at home on Stages 8 and 9 at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. And, as he has been since day one, the actor is in full command of his character. "Captain Picard is a visionary, a dreamer, an adventurer and a compassionate man," he explains carefully. "A leader who leads from the front, but at the same time sees himself as part of the group.

"One of this captain's characteristics as opposed to James T. Kirk's is that he continually says to people, 'Tell me what you think — I want to hear your views.' He is generous with his time, eager to learn new concepts and is a literate,



cultured man who still reads books and listens to classical music. He has a large library, when reading has become something of an oddity in the 24th century and Picard is perfectly comfortable quoting some of his favorite authors, including William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll."

Though thoroughly at ease as Picard, Stewart insists on separating his high-profile character from his private life. "I will never appear in uniform off the show and will never speak as the captain out of character," he states flatly. "A fan caught me at a particularly bad moment recently when he said, 'You're Jean-Luc Picard, aren't you?' My immediate retort was 'No!' because I do resist that kind of identification. I'm also slightly unnerved by certain people at *Star Trek* conventions who dress and look like me, down to having shaved their heads. It's a compliment in a way, but going that far seems a little foolish to me."

Whereas some actors would rather fight Romulans with water pistols than attend Trekkers conclaves, Stewart embraces the close encounters with relish. "I consider myself extremely fortunate because there are very few television shows where actors can have direct contact with those people who love it and watch it regularly," he says. " I enjoy conversations on a big scale with people who truly care to find out their topics of interest and reactions to character development because I find them mostly thoughtful and intelligent.

"What fascinates me the most is that *The Next Generation* fans see the show as a living thing in a constant state of growth — while seeing themselves as a part of the process," he continues. "It is because of how carefully and closely these people watch what we do that the show gets better. We can never coast. It is due to their intense scrutiny that actors, writers and producers feel a great responsibility regarding what we present on the screen. It's a pleasure to be serious in an area of entertainment that is often thoughtless and insubstantial."

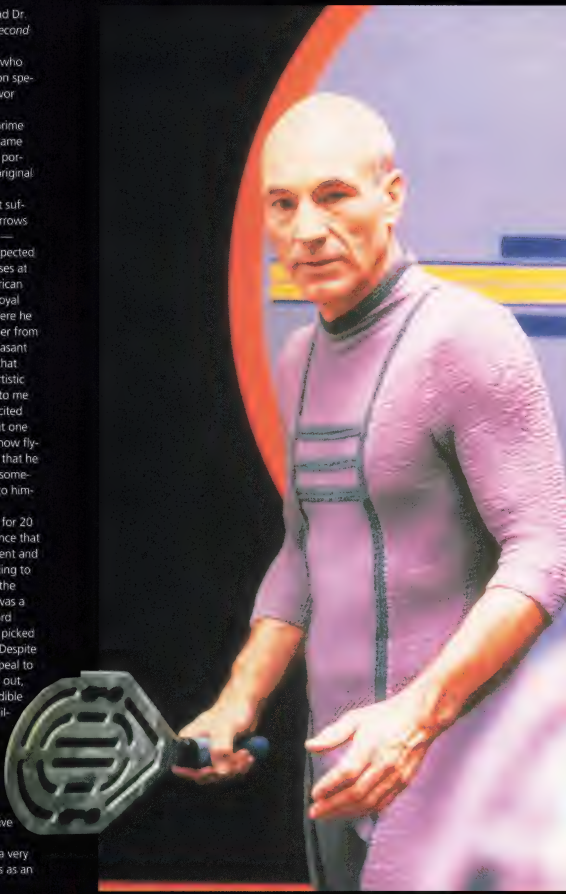
"I consider myself extremely fortunate because there are very few television shows where actors can have direct contact with those people who love it and watch it regularly."

Stewart also takes enormous pride in *The Next Generation*'s broad appeal as it hooks viewers ranging from bellboys to female astronauts. During the 1992-1993 season, some die-hard fans even made guest appearances on the show — including Stephen Hawking, the eminent theoretical physicist and author of *A Brief History of Time* (in the

season-ending *Descent*), and Dr. Mae Jemison (in ST:TNG: *Second Chances*), the first African-American woman in space who served as the science mission specialist on the shuttle Endeavor when it was launched on September 12, 1992. Her prime inspiration as a youngster came from Nichelle Nichols, who portrayed Lieut. Uhura in the original series.

So far, Stewart has not suffered scorn, or slings and arrows from his former colleagues — some of whom could be expected to look down their long noses at his participation in an American hardware show — at the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he served faithfully as a member from 1966 to 1984. "A most pleasant surprise was the discovery that Terry Hamms, the retired artistic director of RSC, confessed to me that nothing could have excited him more than learning that one of his friends and actors is now flying the Enterprise. The fact that he never missed an episode is something that he kept entirely to himself."

Working with the RSC for 20 years was a rarified experience that provided immense enrichment and creative satisfaction, according to Stewart, but every actor in the company knew that there was a larger world outside Stratford upon Avon every time they picked up their tiny paycheques. "Despite its stature, RSC's efforts appeal to a minority taste," he points out, dry as dust. "It seems incredible to me that more than 30 million viewers watched the *The Next Generation* pilot episode, which is certainly more people than have ever seen me on stage in my whole career. And it would be dishonest and naive of me not to say that it is extremely pleasant to earn a very good living after thirty years as an actor."



Of humble origins, Stewart and his two much older brothers were born and reared in Mirfield (pop. 12,000), Yorkshire, to a housewife who helped ends meet as a factory weaver and a housepainter who served in World War II as a sergeant major in the parachute regiment. Most of his childhood memories are bleak, including those of his mother's dead-end work "operating an enormous, terrifying machine in a huge, drafty weaving shed along with two hundred other women. She was merely a cog in the wheel of the local industry, making heavy woollen blankets."

But the small town supported a dozen or so amateur theatre societies and he eagerly joined his drama group at the age of 12. "Why acting?" he asks rhetorically, stroking his pointed chin. "Well, it is very personal and quite complicated. I was pretty unhappy as a child due to my upbringing and background and, in a nutshell, I suppose it can be summed up as an attempt to escape from the real world into a much more comfortable, imaginary world. I think that's what I was doing . . . and perhaps it continues today. I know it does."

He dropped out of school three years later to become a journalist for the local weekly newspaper, the *Mirfield Reporter*. Stewart wasn't particularly adept as a newshound, partly because the job interfered with his play rehearsals. And when he couldn't find a sympathetic writer to cover his beat on opening night, the man of many words would simply "make up a decent story." His editor, however, took exception to the practice and made him choose between a typewriter with sticky keys and liberal applications of greasepaint.

Stewart chose acting, "because it provided periods of absolute joy and delight that I had never experienced before," but spent several months selling furniture until a two-year drama scholarship at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School came along in 1957. He thought he was breaking new ground until summoned by his 80-year-old grandmother who wished to share a deep, dark family secret. She told him about William Stewart, his paternal grandfather who had deserted her many years before — leaving her with four small children.

"After sending my mother out of the room, she told me about him," Stewart continues slowly. "As I already suspected, he was an actor and the last time anyone had ever heard of him was when the police paid him a visit at the old Elephant & Castle Theatre in London regarding nonpayment of family maintenance. It was in the middle of a play and William evidently persuaded the police to let him finish the performance. While the police waited in the wings William did his part and exited through a side door and was never seen again. But it is believed that he changed his name and left for the U.S. For this reason, my family became uneasy when I became an actor. The man was obviously a swine."

Undaunted, Stewart learned his trade in scores of regional theatre productions before slowly polishing his craft with the RSC. Over the years he gained a sterling reputation at home through his interpretations of such roles as Henry IV, Shylock and Titus Andronicus. Though never a screen star, he lent his considerable talent to a number of BBC television productions, including *I, Claudius*; *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *Smiley's People*. In feature films, he provided support in such vehicles as *Excalibur*, *Dune* and *Lifeforce*.

Long before taking command of the Enterprise as a balding Frenchman with an English accent, Stewart spent 15 years of a "semi-secret life" while at RSC as a Shakespearian teacher and associate director of the Alliance for Creative Theatre, Education & Research (ACTER) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. On one of his annual California trips, he was contacted by a professor friend at UCLA to help illustrate a lecture by reading selected passages from Oscar Wilde, Noël Coward and Shakespeare. Robert Justman, one of *The Next Generation*'s original producers, happened to be in the audience that night. At the end of Stewart's performance, Justman turned to his wife and said "We've found our captain!"

Very much a private man, the longtime Hollywood resident declines to discuss his personal life, including his divorce two years ago from London-based choreographer Sheila Falkner and his current close relationship with L.A.-based screenwriter Meredith Baer. The couple, reportedly set to marry by the end of the year, were introduced by their mutual friend — and his fellow *The Next Generation* cast member — Whoopi Goldberg. But a proud father, he takes the opportunity to tout his children, Sophie, 19, and Daniel, 25, as they move into the acting business.

"I didn't encourage either one to take up this profession because ninety-odd per cent of all actors simply don't work," he says with a deep sigh. "I know a lot of bitter, unhappy and frustrated actors for that very reason and didn't want that kind of life and outlook for my children. My daughter received her theatre training in England and I was unable to see her grow, but Daniel went to school in California. He made his acting debut in a huge stage production at fifteen — and was dazzling. It was one of those great family moments. As for me, well I'm obsessed with acting and have nothing to replace it with. I just got lucky."

While awaiting the verdict on his potential participation in *Star Trek VII* and news of possible *The Next Generation* episodes after next season, Stewart plays selected sites as the star and director of Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, a complex musical drama backed by a 60-piece orchestra, with old friends and associates Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, Gates McFadden and Colm Meaney. "I cannot speculate on my future as Jean-Luc Picard," he says, smiling. "But I've always said that I will do the role as long as it interests me."

Editor's Note: See Patrick Stewart *live* in London this Christmas when he performs his own magical version of the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Also, fan club members could win a chance to meet him after the show.

GUEST COMMENTARY

From one generation to the next

Tim Gaskill, CIC Video's own resident expert,

compares and contrasts three generations of *Star Trek*

With most of the current *Star Trek* talk concentrating on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (both the series and the projected film), *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and even a new *Star Trek* series, we tend to lose sight of the original *Star Trek*. Today's *Star Trek* is a much more high-tech world than ever before and the viewer is treated to some excellent special effects and clever mysteries-of-science storylines. That may be why some find the link between the 23rd century *Star Trek* and the 24th century *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* a bit difficult to handle. However, to the true Trekker, for pure viewing pleasure the original series is still hard to beat on dramatics and action.

What original *Star Trek* lacked in the special effects department it more than made up for with the strength of its characters and the uniqueness of its storylines. If you go back and watch an early episode, like *Arena*, there you can see the emotional struggles Kirk faces in his decision to initiate a revenge attack on an alien crew that has just annihilated inhabitants of Starfleet base Cesus III. Spock, ever logical, tries to reason with Kirk that perhaps his judgment is clouded by his emotions. This story simply could not work the same way on *The Next Generation*. Jean-Luc Picard of *The Next Generation* would never resort to such abandonment of rational decision-making and thus endanger his ship and crew. Kirk, however, took chances. In *Arena* he gambled with his and his crew's life in pursuit of the Gorn, an unknown entity. Kirk's vulnerability and his unpredictability in the face of these awkward life-or-death dilemmas is what makes him as watchable today as he was 27 years ago. Kirk and his crew frequently had to rely on their resourcefulness in these confrontations.

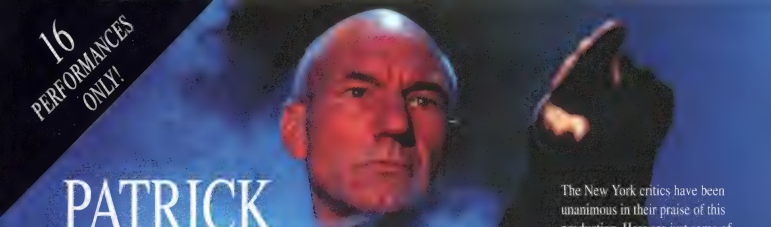
In *The Next Generation*, Jean-Luc is more like Spock in that he tends to not lose his cool. Riker, although toned down from Kirk, is somewhat of a James T. equivalent. He survives more on his emotions. Jean-Luc as the archetypal captain, is a level-headed, grace-under-pressure type of captain. He commands respect, but in a different way than Kirk. He holds the Prime Directive above all else. Kirk, to his credit, did not have this built-in code of ethics, as the Prime Directive took shape in the original *Star Trek* whereas *The Next Generation*'s crew is already well-versed in its meaning and various ramifications.

Consider the difference between the Old West in America of the 19th century and the modern civilization of the 20th century in America. The myth of the West and the role of the gun are very strong images, connected with the image of lawlessness. People lived and died by their emotions and their code of ethics. The 23rd century is in many respects more lawless than the 24th, as witnessed in the conflicts with the Klingon Empire and the Romulans. By the 24th century, some of the lessons of the previous century are heeded. Space has been charted that much further and as the frontier has expanded, so has the technology and the protocol available to deal with other races.

Original *Star Trek* was classic '60s television transplanted into space, with a highly developed code of ethics. It was the Old West frontier . . . but in space. Like the Old West, the stories are more to do with good versus evil. Fortunately, for us, the good guys have been winning ever since.

Please feel free to comment on Tim's articles by writing to us at: The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K., The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon, OX8 IEB.

16 PERFORMANCES ONLY!



PATRICK STEWART'S *A Christmas Carol*

SEE PATRICK STEWART *LIVE* THIS CHRISTMAS IN HIS OWN MAGICAL VERSION OF THIS DICKENS CLASSIC.

Following two smash-hit seasons on Broadway, Patrick Stewart is bringing his highly acclaimed one-man show to London's West End this Christmas from December 27, 1993, to January 8, 1994.

Stewart has so ingeniously staged and adapted Dickens' original text that on a bare stage he is able to conjure up the whole world and atmosphere of Dickens' beloved tale *single-handedly*. His prodigious acting talents are tested to the full as he vibrantly portrays every character in the story — 39 in all — and all with minimal use of makeup, costumes and props.

The New York critics have been unanimous in their praise of this production. Here are just some of the things they said about it:

"An evening of matchless theatre"
— New York Times

"Stunningly effective and deviously imaginative"
— New York Post

"... remarkable ... a tour de force"
— F.T.

"He is a great storyteller, he has a great story to tell, and he brings to life the classic Charles Dickens story with passion and power"
— Stewart Klein, Fox News

"May it grace us for many Christmases to come"
— Daily News, New York

"... this truly is an experience of a lifetime"
— WOR Radio, New York

EXCLUSIVE TICKET OFFER FOR ALL OFFICIAL FAN CLUB MEMBERS

See the show and win a chance to meet Patrick Stewart!

For both evening performances on December 27th and December 28th all members can buy top-price <cat> (normally £20 each) for the special price of £16! Upon booking you will automatically be entered into a prize draw. The winner will have a chance to meet Patrick Stewart and also they'll receive a *Star Trek* T-shirt and a limited edition *Star Trek* poster, beautifully mounted and framed, and both will be personalized and signed by Stewart himself. The 10 runners-up will also have an opportunity to meet him and will receive *A Christmas Carol* poster — again signed and personalized by Patrick Stewart.

If you would like to receive further information on how to book for *A Christmas Carol* just fill in the coupon and return it to: *The Editor, The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K., The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon OX8 1EB* by December 1st. But hurry — the first 50 members to book for the show will each receive a recording of the production.

Please send me further details on how to book tickets for Patrick Stewart's A Christmas Carol *at the exclusive* Star Trek *Fan Club rate.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Membership #: _____ Daytime Tel. #: _____

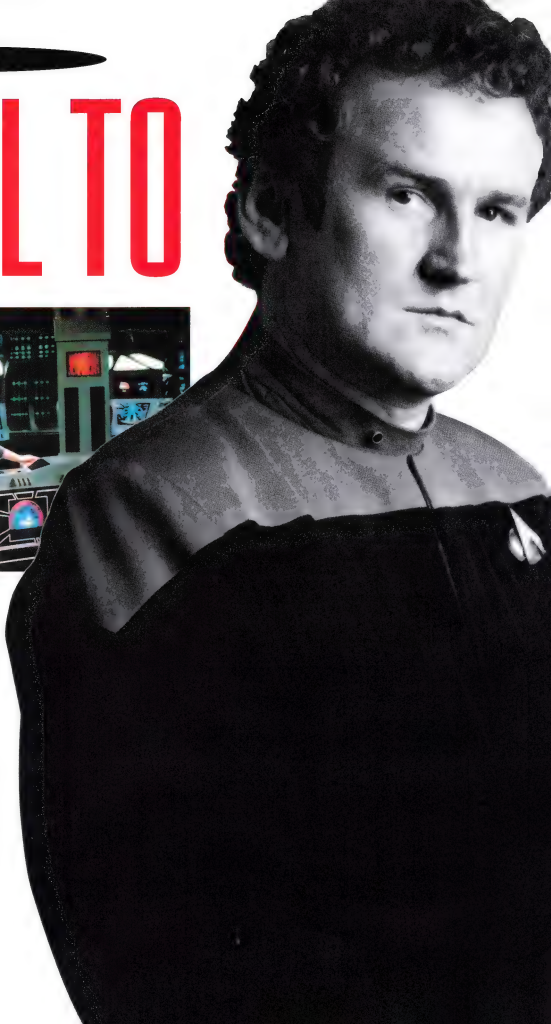
Please indicate preferred performance and number of tickets required:

❑ Monday, December 27 (____) ❑ Tuesday, December 28 (____)

Please do not send in payment at this stage — you will be contacted about this later once the theatre has been announced. Photocopies of this coupon are accepted.

Q & A

HAIL TO



IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY AT Paramount Studios' Stage 4, the cavernous structure that houses most sets of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* — including the ramshackle former Cardassian space station's mammoth Ops Control Centre. By late afternoon, a handful of tired actors and the entire production crew are set to roll on a conference scene in Cmdr. Sisko's (Avery Brooks) quarters for episode ST:DS9: *If Wishes Were Horses.*

Colm Meaney, as DS9's

By Eirik Knutzen

THE CHIEF

Star Trek: The Next Generation star

Colm Meaney moves Miles (O'Brien) into Deep Space Nine

rock solid Chief Operations Officer Miles O'Brien, delivers the opening line letter-perfect and with authority: "A Vulcan science mission to the Hanoli system detonated a pulse-wave torpedo at the coordinates of the Tear..."

One by one, the other actors in the scene — including Brooks, Nana Visitor (Maj. Kira Nerys), Siddig El Fadil (Dr. Julian Bashir) and Terry Farrell (Lieut. Jadzia Dax) — completely blow their tongue-twisting dialogue. A balky neon light emitting a subtle hissing sound holds up the proceedings for about 10 minutes while technicians straighten out the problem.

Fifteen takes and 1½ hours later, the three-minute scene comes off without a hitch.

Meaney, 39, the burly, curly-haired, six-foot Irishman, having delivered his initial report flawlessly more than a dozen times, emerges from the mini-ordeal unfazed.

"Techno-babble, as we call it, is extremely difficult because there is little, if anything, to relate to," says the earthy, expansive actor as he settles into a chair on a swing set a few feet from his DS9 Ops post.

"We all screw up — I just got lucky today."

Trek: How do you remember all this incredibly complex dialogue?

Meaney: I simply spend a lot of the time trying to find logical and understandable aspects to it. But when you're largely dealing with fictional technology, there isn't anything rational to relate it to. So, I've looked to some alternate sources.

For example, there is an Irish writer, using the pseudonym Flann O'Brien, who writes some very bizarre fiction. In one of his novels, he explains the atomic theory on the basis of a postman being 73 per cent bicycle and 27 per cent person, and the postman's bike being 73 per cent human and 27 per cent bicycle — because the bike is always taken inside for tea and kept warm by the stove. Ultimately, the interaction between the postman's behind and the bicycle's saddle turns the postman into a bicycle and the bicycle into a postman.

That's madness and total nonsense, but in a funny sort of way it makes sense. And that's how *Deep Space Nine*'s bizarre theories of physics make sense to me, more or less.

Trek: Sorry we asked. Does this stuff give you a lot of sleepless nights?

Meaney: No, and the lines are instantly forgettable. When you do a lot of episodes back-to-back, something unconsciously happens that wipes the previous show from your memory to make room for the next program.

Trek: As long as we're talking about technical aspects of the role, is your work at DS9's controls scripted?

Meaney: No, except on rare occasions when a camera angle calls for specific hand movements. Ordinarily, an actor just plays around on a console in a rhythm and sequence he feels fits the action. Again, familiarity with nonsense equipment eventually gives it all a logic of its own. It's quite strange if you haven't fooled around with one of these before, and you feel kind of silly doing it the first time. Actors are very concerned about looking phony, so they take such things seriously. But by the time they put it all together with special effects, it always looks great.

Trek: In the pilot episode of *Deep Space Nine*, Chief O'Brien just kicks the hell out of a control console — was that written into the script or did you take it upon yourself?

Meaney: That tiny bit of comic relief was actually written. Had it been my suggestion, it probably wouldn't have been listened to. But playing the scene was my choice, and I could have gone bananas with it. However, I think it was clear from the storyline that the kick came out of frustration rather than from a hope that it would make the panel work. In fact, he was slightly taken aback when it actually functioned.

Trek: Who is Chief Operations Officer Miles O'Brien in your mind?

Meaney: His background is very similar to mine in that he probably has a working class background and was born in Ireland, perhaps Dublin. If anything, he is cautious and methodical, unlike some very impulsive Starfleet people. And the way I play him, Miles has more of what I consider human qualities and less superhuman qualities than other *Star Trek* characters. He worked hard to get where he is, but he's also gifted. O'Brien is today's equivalent of a mechanical or computer whiz.

Trek: In reality, how talented are you in mechanics and electronics?

Meaney: Absolutely hopeless. I don't own a computer and can't figure them out anyway. I can't even program my VCR, though I've gone as far as to set the clock. And proud of it.

Miles has more of what I consider human qualities and less superhuman qualities than other Star Trek characters. He worked hard to get where he is, but he's also gifted.

Trek: How has O'Brien evolved since *The Next Generation* pilot in 1987?

Meaney: The most obvious thing is that he got married to Keiko [Rosalind Chao] and has a child — making us, as far as I know, the first family unit in space. The rest of the characters seem to be single or widowed, while Miles has a definite home life that lends itself to some unique story angles. We've certainly had opportunities to explore the ramifications of marriage in the confines of a space station. A broken-down one at that.

Trek: How much input do you have into your character?

Meaney: In the past, going back to *The Next Generation*, I really didn't have any say at all because my relationship with the show wasn't very regular. I'd do an episode here and there, then disappear for weeks at a time. That has changed with being a regular on *Deep Space Nine*, and you will see more of Miles's personality as we go on. I have already made subtle changes; there will be more. Some of them big surprises.

Trek: O'Brien's change of title, from transporter chief on the Enterprise to chief operations officer on DS9 appears to be a promotion. Yet the insignia on his uniform collar seems to indicate a demotion. Can you straighten this out for us?

Meaney: I'm afraid not. There is still some confusion over the number of "pips" on my collar. In Starfleet, a solid gold pip, or button, indicates your rank. I wore two pips in *The Next Generation*, meaning that O'Brien was an officer, a lieutenant. But in fact he was referred to as a chief, which in traditional navy terms indicates a noncommissioned officer. When O'Brien went over to *Deep Space Nine*, he technically was given a promotion. However, one pip was taken off his collar, and that indicates the lower rank of ensign. A demotion in order to have all these headaches on the new ship doesn't make any sense. Some fans are very disturbed over the situation, and I hope it will be resolved shortly.

Trek: How did you get involved with *The Next Generation* in the first place?

Meaney: Going back to the 1987 pilot, I was cast along with a lot of other actors as an "N.D. Crew Member." The initials stand for "nondescript" — a

GOOD NEWS, FAN CLUB MEMBERS

The following stores are currently offering discounts to all *Star Trek* fan club members on selected ranges of *Star Trek* merchandise.

- Another World, Nottingham Tel: 0602 484 122
- Another World, Leicester Tel: 0533 515 266
- Astounding Comics, Newport Tel: 0983 525 320
- Books n' Comics, Middlesborough Tel: 0642 249 143
- Comics Unlimited, Letchworth Tel: 0462 480 018
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- Floppy Tongue Comics, Salisbury Tel: 0722 331 107
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- NU: Earth, York Tel: 0804 811 461
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- Thunderbooks II, Preston Tel: 0772 204 287
- Whatever Comics, Canterbury Tel: 0227 453 226

Please remember to take along your membership card!

term covering all the people you see milling around the Enterprise's bridge. My character didn't even have a name. With luck, you can go to a drama school for four years and become a nondescript crew member, too. The producers liked me, but didn't quite know where to fit me in, so I went off immediately after the pilot for a one-year run in a Broadway play.

I was gone for all of *The Next Generation*'s first season, then came back in small guest shots halfway through the second season. It wasn't until the beginning of the third season that they made me the transporter chief, a recurring role.

Trek: How did you make the transition to *Deep Space Nine*?

Meaney: Rick Berman and Michael Piller approached me in early 1992 to see if I would be interested and available. I was very interested, though I did other pilots, including *Medicine Woman*. We continued talking for several months, including the times I was away in Ireland to shoot two feature films — *Into the West* and *The Snapper*. A loose six-year contract was signed, and here I am. As a regular, I'm making more money and have less freedom. Hey, that's a pretty good trade-off for a freelance actor.

Trek: Was the transition from *The Next Generation* to *Deep Space Nine* difficult?

Meaney: Not really, mainly because I was already familiar with *Star Trek* writing and had my own character down. It also helped to have *Deep Space Nine*'s pilot episode as a transition from the Enterprise for O'Brien. I loved his farewell scene with Capt. Picard. It was a short, simple goodbye, yet quite emotional. Patrick [Stewart], of course, played it beautifully. Plus, I had a sense of continuity in that I had already worked with several producers, writers and production crew members on *The Next Generation*.

Trek: Did *Deep Space Nine*'s new cast members look to you for leadership and direction?

Meaney: Let's make one thing clear: Avery [Brooks] was our head man from day one. His presence and command is always there. The new actors — who jelled remarkably fast — came to me mainly for technical advice. Little things like what to do with your hands when you're being beamed aboard, etc.

Trek: Since the shows are shot on separate sound stages about 25 yards apart, is there any kind of rivalry between *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* cast members?

Meaney: No, none at all. Patrick came over to wish Avery well on the first day of shooting. Jonathan Frakes and several other *Next Generation* people visit all the time, complaining that we have nicer sets and better dressing rooms. But it's all good-natured banter. We don't compete in the ratings, and think of the two shows as complementing each other. And the same people sign our paycheques.

Trek: How different are the two shows in tone and texture?

Meaney: Well, *Deep Space Nine* certainly is a bit grittier than *The Next Generation*. Life is a bit more comfortable and secure on the Enterprise, which is self-contained and has all kinds of firepower. We're more out on a limb, like a crude, makeshift outpost in the Wild West with limited protection. And we're stationary — meaning we can't just push the warp button and get out of there. Being isolated and vulnerable leads to friction among those who inhabit DS9. The fact that the station was wrecked by the Cardassians and continually breaks down unnerves everybody, including Maj. Kira Nerys, who as a Bajoran is finding it difficult to fit into the Starfleet philosophy to begin with. ■

A look at *Star Trek* publishing

BOOK REVIEWS

The Siege (ST:DS9)

By Peter David, Pocket Books

The *Deep Space Nine* fiction series is off to a flying start with Peter David's *The Siege*. A series of mysterious murders is occurring on the DS9 station and Odo must confront a killer who has the same skills as he does.

David reveals new dimensions of Odo's unique transformation abilities, as Odo continues his personal struggle for an identity. The Edemans, a new alien race, is introduced to add to the excitement. They clash with the Cardassians over the murders and, in a complex plot twist, both groups threaten to destroy DS9.

Other characters on DS9 are also shown in more detail as the threat of the killer becomes more menacing. For example, Dr. Bashir turns from being just a piece of the furniture, into a confident and competent medical and Starfleet officer, when he struggles with a moral dilemma over a patient. As well, the continuing conflict between Keiko and Miles O'Brien comes to a resolution as their daughter Molly turns three.

The book also introduces some new Ferengi customs, as an old business rival arrives and offers Quark a chance at a new venture — purchasing the station itself! We also get a chance to see Quark's unique use of the holosuite and the programs suited to his delights.

With all these subplots going on, the book is an excellent read. I was particularly impressed that Dr. Bashir's character has been developed; he is more a complex individual and less comic relief.

Trekkers are going to think they've died and gone to heaven when they get a look at the revised *The Star Trek Compendium* and the brand-new *Star Trek Chronology* — the former an update of Allan Asherman's original series reference book, while the latter, by Michael and Denise Okuda, puts the entire history of the *Star Trek* universe into cross-referenced chronological order.

If in fact *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* is the last hurrah of Kirk, Spock and McCoy and the original Enterprise crew, then the new *Compendium* can now be considered a complete encyclopedia of the classic series.

Beginning with an in-depth look at how the structure of *Star Trek* gradually took its shape, Asherman goes on to give a blow-by-blow description of each episode, with all kinds of wonderful tidbits thrown in, such as how casting decisions were made and how special effects were created. The same devotion to detail is lavished on the animated series and each of the six movies.

As a special bonus, for fans (including this writer) who drive themselves crazy trying to remember names of characters or actors who appeared on the original series, there is an alphabetical listing of leading roles.

In short, in reference to classic *Trek*, *The Star Trek Compendium* has now achieved an almost biblical stature.

The work that the Okudas put into assembling the material for the *Star Trek Chronology* is staggering. Every event and character even remotely mentioned in any *Star Trek* and *The Next Generation* episode is put on a historical time line.

What is particularly intriguing about the chronological references is how they fit into the overall perspective. For example, in the year 1994, an Earth woman named Claire Raymond died of an embolism and was cryogenically frozen and put on an orbiting spaceship. Raymond, of course, turns up in the time line some 370 years later to be thawed out by Beverly Crusher in the episode *The Neutral Zone (ST:TNG)*.

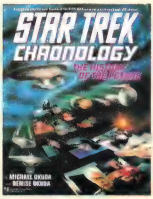
The authors even include in an appendix undatable events, in an effort to leave no reference unmentioned.

Because the *Chronology* only goes up to the end of *The Next Generation*'s fifth season, one can safely presume that the book will eventually be updated and revised to include subsequent episodes, as well as facts pertaining to *Deep Space Nine*.

My immediate reaction to the *Chronology* was this: I found myself profoundly moved by the sheer brilliance of all the creative minds who, since 1966, have contributed to the making of the *Star Trek* universe. That there can even *be* a book about "the history of the future" is a testament to the infinite questing spirit of the human imagination.

By Paula Citron

The Star Trek Compendium,
By Allan Asherman,
Pocket Books



Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future,
By Michael Okuda and Denise Okuda,
Pocket Books

HOMEGROWN

Profiles of our very own *Star Trek* stars

PATRICK STEWART

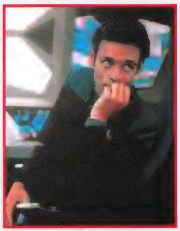
AS CAPT. JEAN-LUC PICARD
Star Trek: The Next Generation

Stewart has been a noted Shakespearean actor for many years, most prominently in the Royal Shakespeare Company. In fact, he was spotted at UCLA doing a dramatic reading by original series producer Robert Justman, who promptly turned to his wife proclaiming, "We've found our captain."

Stewart has also appeared in many feature films including *L.A. Story*, *Lady Jane*, *Dune* and *Excalibur*. He is most remembered for his role as Sejanus in the BBC/PBS mini-series *I, Claudius*.

SIDDIG EL FADIL

AS DR. JULIAN BASHIR
Star Trek: The Next Generation



Born and raised in England, Siddig trained and gained much theatre and TV experience in London. His drama studies at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts saw Siddig playing the leads in *Hamlet* and *Arthur*. He then played many varied stage roles before landing a part in *The Big Battalions* and then in *A Dangerous Man, Lawrence After Arabia*.

MARINA SIRTIS

AS COUNSELOR DEANNA TROI
Star Trek: The Next Generation

From North London, Sirtis also brings a lot of theatre experience to her role as the Betazoid Empath. Her film and TV work includes *The Wicked Lady* with Faye Dunaway and *Death Wish 3*, along with guest spots on *Hunter* and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Her voice on *The Next Generation* is a melting pot of different accents to give her character an exotic feel.

COLM MEANEY

AS CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER MILES O'BRIEN
Star Trek: The Next Generation

Meaney, currently enjoying a high profile in the U.K. with both TV broadcasts and cinema showings of the hit *The Snapper*, hails from Dublin, Ireland. An actor with impressive stage credentials, Colm has been most seen in many Hollywood feature films of late, including *Under Siege*, *Far and Away* and *Die Hard 2* and Irish-located films *The Commitments* and *Into the West*.

THE HIGH STREET

Our away team locks on to some recent *Star Trek* activity

The Final Frontier — with pepperoni and salad

You're bound to have seen the *Star Trek* cups at Pizza Hut — great souvenir models featuring the U.S.S. Enterprise, a Romulan Bird of Prey, a Klingon Battle Cruiser and a Communicator. It's not just a question of "see the series, watch the movies, eat the pizza" either. These are really great models for collectors — but you probably know that already.

Pizza Hut restaurants are also running a competition to give you a chance to win sets of *Star Trek* videos — *Star Trek*, episode 1; *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, episode 1 (*Encounter at Farpoint*); and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, episode 1 (*Emissary*). All you need to do is answer one simple question (and that's where you all have a distinct advantage) to have the chance of winning the videos — one set per Pizza Hut restaurant.

Go along to your local Pizza Hut and find out for yourself — the competition is open until November 28, 1993. If you haven't collected the cups already, you will want to as soon as you see them. They're cups, Jim — but not as we know them.

Deep Space Nine lands on Planet Hollywood

On Stardate 9308.03 (August 3, 1993), Planet Hollywood in London was host to the video launch of the year for the newest *Star Trek* series, *Deep Space Nine*. The launch was enlivened by an exclusive video presentation of congratulations from some of the stars of *Deep Space Nine* — Avery Brooks, Nana Visitor, Siddig El Fadil, Terry Farrell and Armin Shimerman. Each actor, in full costume and makeup, gave a personal good wish for the launch of the *Star Trek* videos.

The launch beamed up a host of TV and radio representatives (The Big Breakfast, Dave Lee Travis) and also the U.K.'s major newspapers and magazines to witness an early preview of an upcoming episode — *The Passenger* (vol. 5), and sample some out-of-this-world food from the Planet Hollywood galley. Stalking the perimeters of Planet Hollywood could be seen several Klingons, Bajorans and a Ferengi. Terry Shuttleworth of CIC Video introduced the proceedings and made sure the evening went smoothly.

As *Deep Space Nine* is proving a smash hit in the States, it looks to equal that success in the U.K. Look out for vol. 7 and 8 due for release on November 8th.

Radio personality DLT beams down to rub shoulders with a variety of aliens from the series.

FANSCENE

CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

CONVENTION CALENDER

- **AVALON NEW YEAR CON**
  Dec. 30 - Jan. 1
  Swanage Y.H.,
  Swanage
  Contact: Kate Foster,
  7 Park Road,
  Swanage, Dorset,
  BH19 2AA

- **STARBASE '94**
  Jan. 28 - 30
  Contact: Carol Looby,
  152 Otley Road,
  Headingly, Leeds,
  LS16 5JX

- **TKON 1994**
  April 1 - 4
  The Norfolk Gardens
  Hotel Bradford
  Contact: TKON 1994
  167 Kinghurst Road,
  Northfield,
  Birmingham,
  B31 2II

- **UFP CON '94**
  April 29 - May 2
  Britannia International
  Hotel, London
  Contact: Ros Liddle,
  61 The Scotchill,
  Coventry, CV6 2EW

- **ARCHON '94**
  Aug. 26 - 29
  Edwardian
  International Hotel
  Heathrow, London
  Contact: ARCHON '94,
  43 Eastern Avenue,
  Polegate, East Sussex,
  BN26 6HG

- **WOLF 359**
  Oct. 28 - 31
  Holiday Inn, Leicester
  Contact: Margo White
  37 Branksome Road
  Southend-on-Sea,
  Essex, SS2 4HG

CONTAGION '93
The Scottish *Star Trek* Convention

Contagion clocked its highest attendance ever this July with just 11 people short of the magic 1,000 attending its now-annual convention.

And convention guests Nichelle Nichols (Uhura), Jonathan Del Arco (Hugh Borg) and Richard Arnold kept them entertained over the three days of the convention. The attendance was higher than the organizing committee had hoped for, and that meant the convention also raised a record sum for charity.

To date, £6,000 has been split between the convention's two main charities: Milestone House, an AIDS hospice just outside Edinburgh, and St. Margaret's Hospice in Clydebank, a hospice which specializes in helping terminally ill patients. Funds were also raised through raffles and collecting cans on behalf of a number of different organizations. The committee would like to thank all those who donated to the auction. In total £7,140 has been donated to charity.

Plans are already in the pipeline for Contagion '94, which promises to be the biggest and best Scottish *Star Trek* convention to date. If you would like to find out how to attend, contact: Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 4HR.

By George Haggarty

UNICON '93
First General Science-Fiction Convention

Bristol Starfleet Registry's (BSFR) first convention was run recently in Bristol, where 300 fans mustered to watch the latest offerings from Paramount and share a weekend of fun and special events.

During the course of all this £1,000 was raised for the Royal Bristol Hospital for Sick Children.

The events which make up a convention weekend are planned and executed by the committee and members as a sort of mega party. The attractions of dealers, fancy dress display, art craft and model shows as well as an atmosphere of high excitement combine to make a memorable weekend. If you have never heard of conventions before, then send for information. Apart from all the above attractions there is usually a guest or two from the world of television or literature. The latest con had Bob Justman as the special guest. (Bob was heavily involved with *Star Trek* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.) Just before that, it was possible to meet Marina Sirtis (Counselor Deanna Troi, *The Next Generation*) and Siddig El Fadil (Dr. Julian Bashir, *Deep Space Nine*), both very charming and witty people.

But for me, the best reason to go is to meet many old friends and make new ones. My collection of *Star Trek* memorabilia has increased to the point where I need to buy a bigger house to hold it all, but I also have far more memories of great conventions shared with friends which are much more valuable.

BSFR is doing it all again next year for UNICON 2. If you would like to be part of the fun please write to: UNICON 2, 55 Kildare Road, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 1PR.

A self-addressed stamped envelope would be appreciated.

By Bernie Walsh

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